

In re: Gebreselassie et al.
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Filed: August 20, 2003
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In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A dash insulator that is configured to be attached to a vehicle firewall in face-to-face contacting relationship therewith, wherein the firewall includes an opening formed therethrough, the dash insulator comprising:

a substrate having opposite first and second surfaces and opposite first and second edge portions;

an opening formed through a portion of the substrate;

a pass-through assembly comprising opposite first and second sides and a peripheral edge portion, wherein the pass-through assembly first side is attached to the substrate second surface in face-to-face contacting relationship such that the substrate opening is covered by the pass-through assembly first side, wherein the pass-through assembly is configured to be sealed against the firewall when the dash insulator is installed such that the firewall opening is covered by the pass-through assembly second side, and wherein the pass-through assembly comprises one or more apertures formed therein, each aperture configured to receive an item extending through the substrate and firewall openings;

an instrument panel directly and movably attached to the substrate, wherein the instrument panel is movably attached to the substrate such that movement of the instrument panel relative to the dash insulator facilitates installation of the dash insulator and instrument panel within a vehicle.

2. (Original) The dash insulator of Claim 1, further comprising a vehicle brake pedal assembly secured to the pass-through assembly first side via the substrate opening.

3. (Original) The dash insulator of Claim 2, further comprising a vehicle brake master cylinder assembly secured to the pass-through assembly second side, and wherein the brake pedal assembly is operably connected to the brake master cylinder assembly via an aperture in the pass-through assembly.

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4. (Original) The dash insulator of Claim 1, further comprising a vehicle accelerator pedal assembly secured to the pass-through assembly first side via the substrate opening, and wherein an accelerator linkage operably associated with the accelerator pedal assembly extends through an aperture in the pass-through assembly.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The dash insulator of Claim 1, further comprising a floor covering attached to the substrate.

8. (Original) The dash insulator of Claim 7, wherein the floor covering is movably attached to the substrate such that movement of the floor covering relative to the dash insulator facilitates installation of the dash insulator and floor covering within a vehicle.

9. (Original) The dash insulator of Claim 1, further comprising sound attenuation material applied to one or more portions of the substrate first and/or second surface, wherein the sound attenuation material is configured to reflect and/or absorb sound directed to the dash insulator.

10. (Original) The dash insulator of Claim 9, wherein the sound attenuation material comprises a layer of sound attenuation material having a first thickness in a first portion and a second thickness greater than the first thickness in a second portion.

11. (Original) The dash insulator of Claim 9, wherein the sound attenuation material comprises polyurethane.

12. (Currently Amended) A vehicle cockpit assembly configured to be installed within a passenger compartment of a vehicle, wherein the passenger compartment is

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separated from an engine compartment by a firewall and includes a floor, wherein the firewall includes an opening formed therethrough, the vehicle cockpit assembly comprising:

a dash insulator that is configured to be attached to a vehicle firewall in face-to-face contacting relationship therewith, comprising:

a substrate having opposite first and second surfaces and opposite first and second edge portions;

an opening formed through a portion of the substrate; and

a pass-through assembly comprising opposite first and second sides and a peripheral edge portion, wherein the pass-through assembly first side is attached to the substrate second surface in face-to-face contacting relationship such that the substrate opening is covered by the pass-through assembly first side, wherein the pass-through assembly is configured to be sealed against the firewall when the dash insulator is installed such that the firewall opening is covered by the pass-through assembly second side, and wherein the pass-through assembly comprises one or more apertures formed therein, each aperture configured to receive an item extending between the engine and passenger compartments through the substrate and firewall openings;

an instrument panel directly and movably attached to the substrate, wherein the instrument panel is movably attached to the substrate such that movement of the instrument panel relative to the dash insulator facilitates installation of the dash insulator and instrument panel within a passenger compartment of a vehicle; and

a floor covering attached to the substrate.

13. (Original) The cockpit assembly of Claim 12, further comprising a vehicle brake pedal assembly secured to the pass-through assembly first side via the substrate opening.

14. (Original) The cockpit assembly of Claim 13, further comprising a vehicle brake master cylinder assembly secured to the pass-through assembly second side,

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and wherein the brake pedal assembly is operably connected to the brake master cylinder assembly via an aperture in the pass-through assembly.

15. (Original) The cockpit assembly of Claim 12, further comprising a vehicle accelerator pedal assembly secured to the pass-through assembly first side via the substrate opening, and wherein an accelerator linkage operably associated with the accelerator pedal assembly extends through an aperture in the pass-through assembly.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) The cockpit assembly of Claim 12, wherein the floor covering is movably attached to the substrate such that movement of the floor covering relative to the dash insulator facilitates installation of the dash insulator and floor covering within a passenger compartment of a vehicle.

18. (Original) The cockpit assembly of Claim 12, further comprising sound attenuation material applied to one or more portions of the substrate first and/or second surface, wherein the sound attenuation material is configured to reflect and/or absorb sound directed to the dash insulator.

19. (Original) The cockpit assembly of Claim 18, wherein the sound attenuation material comprises a layer of sound attenuation material having a first thickness in a first portion and a second thickness greater than the first thickness in a second portion.

20. (Original) The cockpit assembly of Claim 18, wherein the sound attenuation material comprises polyurethane.

21. (Currently Amended) A vehicle, comprising:
an engine compartment;
a passenger compartment;

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a firewall separating the engine compartment and passenger compartment, wherein the firewall includes an opening formed therethrough; and

a vehicle cockpit assembly installed within the passenger compartment, wherein the cockpit assembly comprises a dash insulator that is configured to be attached to the firewall in face-to-face contacting relationship therewith, the dash insulator comprising:

a substrate having opposite first and second surfaces and opposite first and second edge portions;

an opening formed through a portion of the substrate; and

a pass-through assembly comprising opposite first and second sides and a peripheral edge portion, wherein the pass-through assembly first side is attached to the substrate second surface in face-to-face contacting relationship such that the substrate opening is covered by the pass-through assembly first side, wherein the pass-through assembly is configured to be sealed against the firewall when the dash insulator is installed such that the firewall opening is covered by the pass-through assembly second side, and wherein the pass-through assembly comprises one or more apertures formed therein, each aperture configured to receive an item extending through the substrate and firewall openings;

an instrument panel directly and movably attached to the substrate, wherein the instrument panel is movably attached to the substrate such that movement of the instrument panel relative to the dash insulator facilitates installation of the dash insulator and instrument panel within a vehicle.

22. (Original) The vehicle of Claim 21, further comprising a vehicle brake pedal assembly secured to the pass-through assembly first side via the substrate opening.

23. (Original) The vehicle of Claim 22, further comprising a vehicle brake master cylinder assembly secured to the pass-through assembly second side, and wherein the brake pedal assembly is operably connected to the brake master cylinder assembly via an aperture in the pass-through assembly.

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24. (Original) The vehicle of Claim 21, further comprising a vehicle accelerator pedal assembly secured to the pass-through assembly first side via the substrate opening, and wherein an accelerator linkage operably associated with the accelerator pedal assembly extends through an aperture in the pass-through assembly.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Original) The vehicle of Claim 21, further comprising a floor covering attached to the substrate.

28. (Original) The vehicle of Claim 27, wherein the floor covering is movably attached to the substrate such that movement of the floor covering relative to the dash insulator facilitates installation of the dash insulator and floor covering within a vehicle.

29. (Original) The vehicle of Claim 21, further comprising sound attenuation material applied to one or more portions of the substrate first and/or second surface, wherein the sound attenuation material is configured to reflect and/or absorb sound directed to the dash insulator.

30. (Original) The vehicle of Claim 29, wherein the sound attenuation material comprises a layer of sound attenuation material having a first thickness in a first portion and a second thickness greater than the first thickness in a second portion.

31. (Original) The vehicle of Claim 29, wherein the sound attenuation material comprises polyurethane.